

Civil Society Futures.

The independent inquiry

Asif Afridi, panel member
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sports associations

activists

voluntary sector

citizen

Civil Society Futures.

informal
networks

charities

trade unions

faith groups

friends
& family

facebook
groups

social
enterprise

The independent inquiry

clicktivist

community
groups

platform
cooperatives

digital nomads

Our brief

The ambition for the inquiry is broadly to develop a clear vision for the role of civil society in England over the next ten years

Specifically to:

1. consider the changing nature of civil society and its prospects
2. to investigate how to maximise the positive effect of civil action
3. To provide a roadmap as to how to realise these opportunities

Our panel



Julia Unwin, former Charity Commissioner/
ex- Chief Exec Joseph Rowntree
Foundation



Asif Afridi



Sarah Gordon



Bert Massie



Debu Purkayastha



Danny Sriskandarajah



Rhiannon White



Carolyn Wilkins



Steve Wyler

Our funders

The Baring Foundation



Our secretariat



Forum for the Future is the **lead organisation**.

Forum is an independent non-profit working with business, government and civil society to understand and accelerate the transition to a sustainable future.



openDemocracy will lead on **communications, online and advocacy**.

openDemocracy is a not-for-profit media outlet.



Goldsmiths University of London will be responsible for **research excellence**, through the expertise available at Goldsmiths in the Centre for Global Media and Democracy, the Faiths and Civil Society Unit and the Centre for Urban and Community Research.



Citizens UK will lead on **public engagement**.

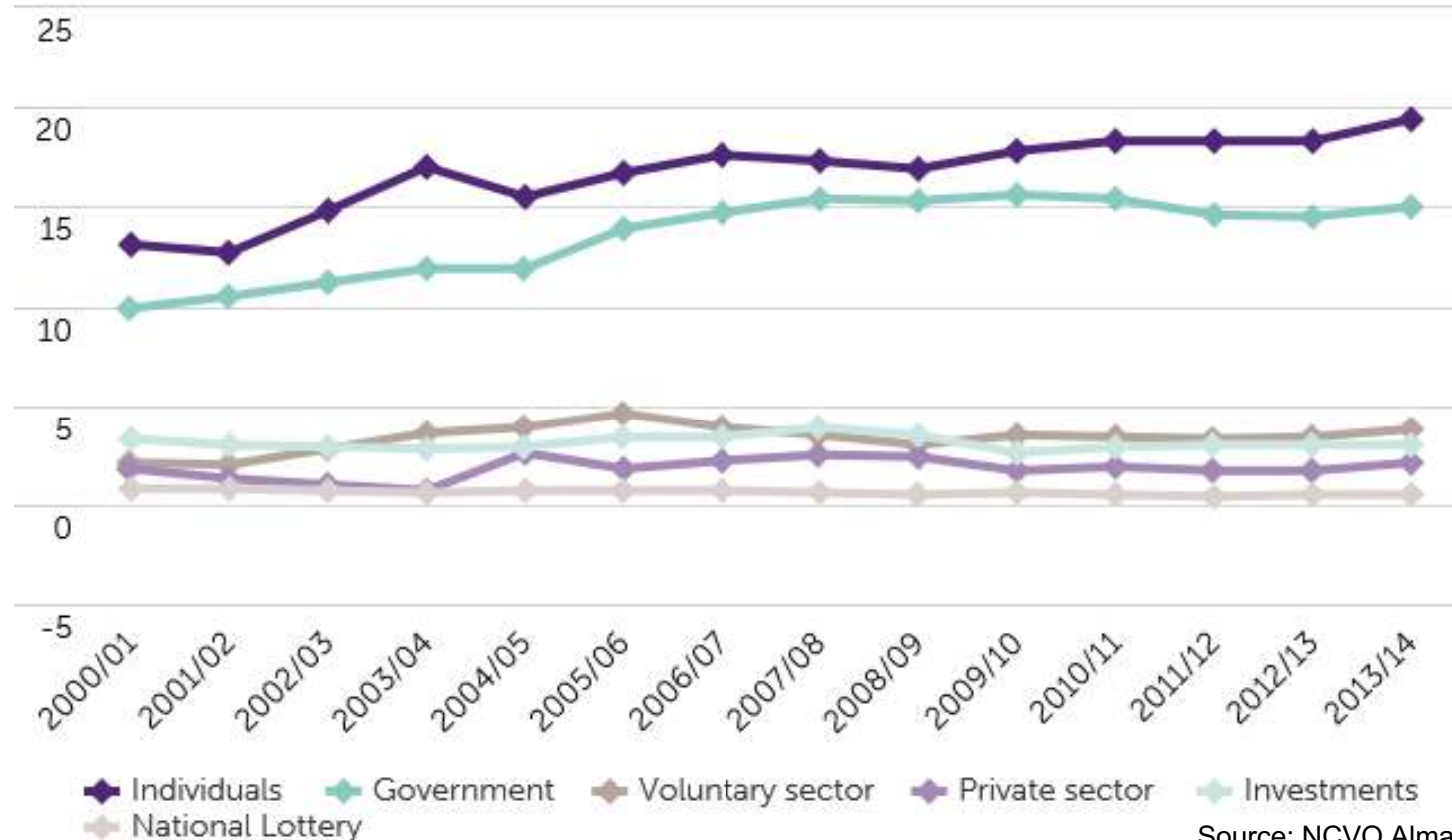
Citizens UK builds the power of organised civil society to achieve social justice and the common good, with diverse community alliances across England.

**Civil
Society
Futures.**

The independent inquiry

Some observations

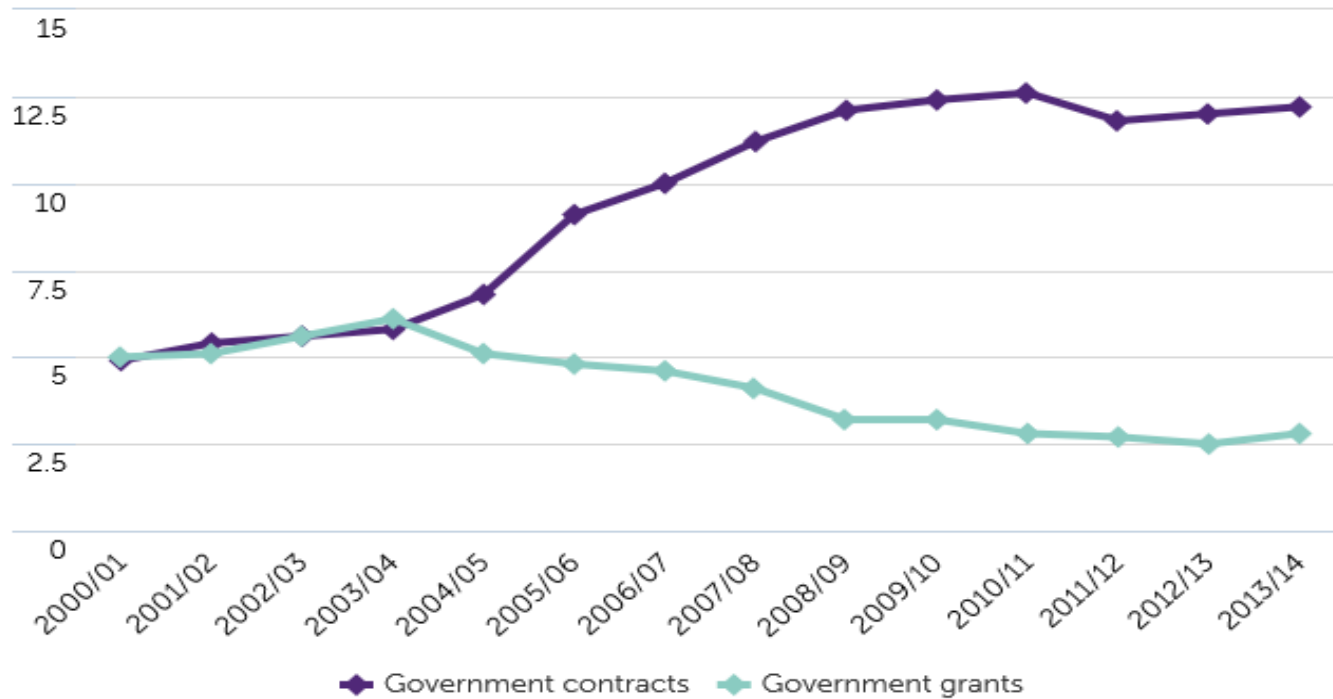
Individual giving & Gov income are top sources of income



Sources of income, voluntary sector (£b, 2013/4 prices)

Source: NCVO Almanac 2016

But Gov income is now mostly contracts, not grants



Income from government, 2000/1-2013/4 (£b, 2013/4 prices)

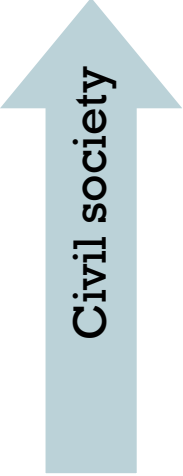
Source: NCVO Almanac 2016

Austerity bites

- Two thirds of charities say they have used money from public donations to prop up key health and social services they have been hired to provide
- Half the charities surveyed turned down contracts because the operational risks of trying to deliver a quality service on the cheap were too high.
- Others handed contracts back because they felt they could not deliver value to beneficiaries with the available funding

Source: New Philanthropy Capital (2017) “Charities taking charge: transforming to face a changing world”

Bridging the divide?



Civil society

Reductions in funding are threatening civil society

The commissioning relationship isn't working for us

Our voice and influence has been reduced

There are lots of new opportunities for civil society


There are lots of new opportunities for civil society

What will happen to state assets?

How do we reshape our relationship with civil society?

How do we support civil society?

How do we reach parts of civil society we don't know about yet?



Public authorities

Future role of councillors?

- The inquiry really wants to hear from you but here are a few reflections...
- Some of these issues are longstanding
- Councillors can help provide strategic oversight, joining the dots in an area (where are local assets, who is doing what in civil society)
- Councillors can help build a local vision, responding to local people's emotions (e.g. lack of trust in public institutions and helping to build that with local people)
- Councillors can help join up civil society activities in a local area / helping people to support each other
- Councillors can help civil society respond to opportunities (e.g. translating policy / funding requirements)

The core principles at the heart of the inquiry



1. Action-oriented: we believe the Inquiry should be rooted in rigorous evidence. We will test new ideas from civil society actors and develop a roadmap for the future of civil society.



2. Process as a value creation strategy: we have designed the Inquiry so it begins to test and build the future civil society itself: via an action research approach e.g. Inquiry online hub, Civil Society Lab and final event.



3. Sustainability driven: we will address long term social and environmental trends and use the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.



4. Systemic: we will take a systemic view of civil society and address how systems work to exclude various groups, and look to the future of how those groups speak to each other.



5. Iterative: we will continue to evolve the inquiry process by ensuring we're constantly learning and experimenting as we go.



6. People-centred: the locus of civil society is the individual, and that will be our entry point. We place great emphasis on the value of face to face engagement whilst acknowledging that in the past decade much activity has moved online and this must be a major part of the Inquiry.

Online Hub www.civilsocietyfutures.org



Building networks and movements or running organisations?



“But wait, I’m woke!”: The trials of the white male manager



“You can’t take the politics out of the struggle”: Four lessons from African feminist organising



Civil society futures: 3 dilemmas



“Over the last six years, we have become a more open, tolerant country”



Ten years after the crash, is civil society ready to take on big finance?



On brass bands and Brexit; culture and cuts: the case of Shirebrook

What’s your biggest hope for civil society in the next ten years?

Civil Society Futures Conversation

civilsocietyfutures.org/conversations



RHUL CommunityAction

@RHVolunteering

Follow

Our Civil Society Futures Conversation taster session in Liverpool this morning @UKSVN @Civsocfutures @RoyalHolloway #msconf17 #iwill



9:40 AM - 16 Aug 2017



B&DCitizens

@BDCitizens

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Over 100 pple attended #OnTheRockChurch event on July 15th. 10 residents will join team! @Civsocfutures @CitizensUK



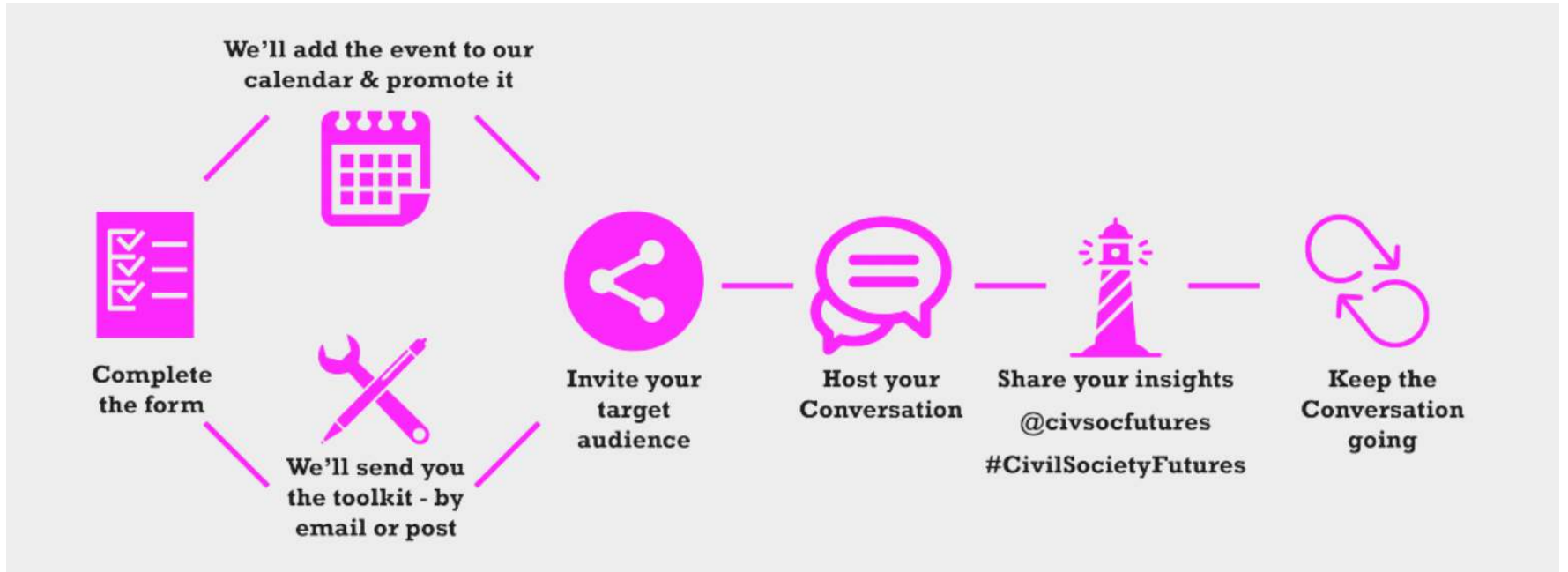
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Civil Society Futures Conversations

civilsocietyfutures.org/conversations



How can you get involved?

Now:

Join the mailing list at civilsocietyfutures.org

Join the conversation on social media [#civilsocietyfutures](https://twitter.com/civilsocietyfutures)

Host a [Civil Society Futures Conversation](#)

Have a lot more to say about civil society? Write for our blog at civilsocietyfutures.org

Soon:

Attend an inquiry event

Respond to a [call for evidence](#)

Thank you

Questions?

How to get in touch:

info@civilsocietyfutures.org

civilsocietyfutures.org

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